

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: FREEPORT HARBOR CHANNEL, FREEPORT, TX.

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

(EA)

Date 7 / 11 / 96 Time(24hr) 1345

Species of Turtle Taken Caretta caretta

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Freeport Harbor Channel markers G7 to R6; stations 24¹⁰⁰-10¹⁰⁰

Location of Take: Latitude 28° 55' .40 N Longitude 95° 17' .58 W

Vessel Name and Company Army Corps of Engineers dredge "Wheeler"

Type of Dredging Activity hopper dredge, maintenance dredging

Load # 6 on the day Times: Start 1216 End 1324 Dump 1345

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow, etc.) (146 cumulative) inflow screening

Samples Recovered From port side aft. screen

Condition of Screening fine

Draghead Deflector? Yes X No

Condition of Deflector solid, fixed unit, in fine condition

Weather Conditions clear skies SE winds 5 knots seas 2' Tide begin ebb +14@130

Water Temperature: Surface 30°C Column 28°C (hopper) (C) or F (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled one small piece, app 24cm x 20 cm,
of carapace w/ margin & attached plastron. from, I believe,
just behind the right front flipper

Measurements--

Give estimate of entire carapace dimensions, as well as fragments sampled (in metric when possible, indicate if not):

Head Width

Plastron Length Width

Carapace S. L. Length S.L. Width

Carapace O.C. Length O.C. Width

Turtle Tagged? Yes No unknown Tag # Tag Date

Comments It took me some small while figuring out what part of the
turtle I had - from where on the turtle it came from. As best I can
tell it's the margin, w/ a little attached plastron & carapace, from
just behind the right front flipper. Due to the angular nature of that
margin, & the reddish brown on yellow color of the shell, I believe

Observer's Name this to be a loggerhead. Caretta caretta. Remains were photographed
1 line left & frozen.

Incident report cont.

(51)

Captain notified @ the dump site.

Area Engineer notified shortly thereafter

"Wheeler" passed over shoal 2x prior to digging load #7.
in an effort to encourage any other turtles to leave.

